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Thru: SI
CCD

15 March 1948

Silent Engine or Steam-Driven Generator - Proposal for by []

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1. The need for a silent driving force for a generator for clandestine radio work is apparent. Also the need for such a driving force capable of being run on a fuel other than a petroleum product is apparent in occupied countries. The solution of such problems as suggested by the [] appears to warrant careful consideration.

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2. Discussion of the subject of a Silent Engine or steam-driven generators for mobile use, carried on with the Navy, indicated that this field is receiving considerable attention. The Bureau of Ships, after much money and time spent, have found themselves forced to settle for a unit driven by a non-fuel-critical liquid fuel external combustion engine. However, even this engine won't be ready for testing for several months. Their reaction to a steam-driven engine was pessimistic as to success. They considered \$95,000 an extremely low cost if such a device could be developed.

3. The pessimism of the Bureau of Ships on the subject should be considered, but the fact that the [] has the services of [], one of the country's foremost small steam engine experts, seems to make the proposal propitious. The services of this engineer in all probability has not been available to the Navy due to his past commitments.

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4. After due consideration, it is requested that a contract be entered into with the [] to undertake the enclosed proposal.

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Chief, Communications Division

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